

Fort Des Moines Historic Complex,
Building 126
(Quartermaster Stable)
Des Moines
Polk County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-121-Y

HABS
IOWA,
77-DESMD,
24-Y-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HABS
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77-DESMO,
24-Y-

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Building No. 126. Quartermaster Stable

Building No. 126, located southwest of Building No. 123, was finished on July 31, 1907, at a cost of \$14,437.99. Erected in accordance with plan 139H of the Quartermaster General's office, the structure had brick walls in running bond, a gabled slate roof, and a limestone and concrete water table foundation. The building measured 66 feet 8 inches wide by 147 feet 6 inches long. Atop the ridge was a louvered monitor. At the front, or west end, were two double sliding doors with a double hung window at either side of each door. Above the door was a loft entrance. On the east end the placement of windows and doors was the same. On the south side of the building there was one double doorway and fourteen double hung windows, an arrangement repeated on the north side. All door and window openings had 2- or 3-course segmental arches. Windows had plain lug sills of limestone. The roof had decorative rafter tails beneath the eaves, and there was a chimney at the northwest corner.

Inside floor space covered 11,204 square feet and was arranged thusly:

First floor:

1 room, 64' 6" x 145' 4" (including 2 rooms, each 11' 10" x 9' 6")

Loft:

1 room, 41' 9" x 44' 2" (including 1 room, 19' 3" x 9' 6")

Flooring was of brick, clay, wood, and concrete. There was electric lighting, and the building had sewer and water line connections. The stable had a capacity for ninety cavalry horses. Repairs between the date of construction and 1922 averaged \$26.00 per year. In 1942 the

building was redesignated a warehouse. The doors and windows on the west end were later bricked in, and a rolling steel door was installed at the center. A door and a double hung window were also installed on the west end. Other changes included the lengthening of windows on the north side; similar lengthening of windows on the north and south sides; and the bricking up of the double door entrances at the east end followed by the installation there of single doors. The loft entrance on the east end was also made smaller. On the roof monitor, the paired windows were all boarded over leaving only the louvered ventilators visible. Interior modifications include the installation of a grease pit and a Kewanee heating plant, which was located in the northwest corner. A small room and a toilet facility was added in the northeast corner, and a clay tile wall was erected relatively late. The attic had two rooms panelled in plywood, and several air-handling units were installed. As of 1987 the vacant structure was in poor to fair condition.(39)

39. Card for Building No. 126. "Historical Record of Buildings." NA, RG 77, Box No. 51; Field survey notes, February 20-22, 1987. QMG Plan No. 139H was no located in NA, Cartographic Archives Division.